REMARKS

Claims 11-15, 29-32, 37 and 38 are pending in this application, of which claims 30-32 and 38 have been amended. Claims 33-36 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claims 30-32 have been amended to depend from claim 29 instead of from claim 20, and claim 38 has been amended to depend from claim 37 instead of from claim 28. This change was necessitated by the claim renumbering performed by the Examiner, as indicated in the Office Action of November 25, 2002.

The claims are now in proper condition for appeal.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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Supplemental Response U.S. Serial No. 09/446,981 Supplemental to June 2, 2003 Amendment

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

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